

## 2023 3rd Quarter Issues for Wyoming Public Media

### ISSUE: Environment

**Topic:** The Head of the Environmental Protection Agency recently visited Wyoming. Administrator Michael Regan said he wanted to learn more about carbon capture and storage technology and power plant emissions.

Time: 11 min

Date: 8/11/23 at 3 pm and 8/13/23 at noon.

**Topic:** The deadly wildfires in Maui are raising questions about the power of wind-driven fires. Twenty years ago, two huge wind-driven fires engulfed the forests along Yellowstone National Park's eastern corridor.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/1/23 at 3 pm and 8/20/23 at noon

**Topic:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released a long-awaited draft proposal of how it will manage 3.6 million acres of federal land in southwest Wyoming. Many Wyomingites are incredibly angry. But much of that anger on the draft is being fueled by distrust of the federal government and misinformation.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/29/23 at 3 pm and 9/31/23 at noon.

**Time:** Sagebrush ecosystem conservation got another big boost in September, thanks to the Biden Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced more than \$10.5 million of funding for projects throughout the West and on the Wind River Reservation.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/22/23 at 3 pm and 9/24/23 at noon.

### ISSUE: Outdoor recreation

**Topic:** Atlantic City, Wyoming is not to be confused with the gambling mecca out east. Rather, it's an old, unincorporated gold mining town, off the beaten path between the Wind River Mountain Range and the Red Desert. The population sign reads 'about 57.' But another boom is here.

Time: 6 min

Date: 9/1/23 at 3 pm and 9/3/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Tens of thousands of mule deer and pronghorn died in southwest Wyoming this past winter and spring, causing the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to drastically reduce the hunting season. But some hunters are taking it a step further.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/22/23 at 3 pm and 9/24/23 at noon

**Topic:** Fall means it's hunting season for many residents in our region. One popular way to hunt and fish is to lease land from private property owners for a more one-of-a-kind experience, and technology is changing the way people find these opportunities.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/22/23 at 3 pm and 9/24/23 at noon

**Topic:** Wildlife managers across the West have been stocking high, alpine lakes with fish for decades. New research is looking into how that history changed the Rocky Mountain environment and the genetics of the fish themselves.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/29/23 at 3 pm and 9/31/23 at noon.

## **ISSUE: Women's issues**

**Topic:** In 1923, Eleanor Davis became the first known woman to climb the Grand Teton – the second tallest peak in Wyoming. A hundred years later, this all-female group of climbers along with an all-female team of guides were getting ready to summit the peak to celebrate her legacy.

Time: 7 min

Date: 9/1/23 at 3 pm and 9/3/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Eleanor Davis became the first known woman to climb the Grand Teton in 1923 – a hundred years later, a group of all women summited the peak in her honor. The centennial celebration also brought together a panel of five trailblazing women who shared reflections on other record-setting accomplishments in the mountain range.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/8/23 at 3 pm and 9/10/23 at noon

## **ISSUE: Agriculture**

**Topic:** WPR collaborated with the My Wild Land film series team to do a deep dive on ranchers who are doing just that – preserving their open spaces for both ranching and wildlife. If you’ve been a Wyoming Public Radio (WPR) listener for sometime, you might have heard some of our coverage on conservation easements. They are a legally binding contract that’s sometimes used by landowners that can help keep wide open spaces...open.

Time: 9 min

Date: 8/18/23 at 3 pm and 8/20/23 at noon.

## **ISSUE: Water issues**

**Topic:** Wyoming is the headwaters for the Colorado River system, which supplies 40 million people across seven states and Mexico. As we’ve heard a lot about in the last year, parts of the system reached historic low water levels, causing states to consider drastic measures to save water. And the consensus is that everyone is going to have to learn to live with less water. So, Wyoming has formed a committee that’ll try to protect some of that water for its users.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/8/23 at 3 pm and 9/10/23 at noon.

## **ISSUE: Energy**

**Topic:** Just southeast of Rawlins on the Overland Trail Ranch, federal and local officials broke ground with shovels on the TransWest Express Transmission Project. It will be a 732-mile powerline that will transfer Wyoming’s wind-generated electricity to the southwest. This is just one way the Biden Administration hopes to achieve 100 percent ‘clean’ energy by 2035.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/7/23 at 3 pm and 7/9/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Black Jewel was a coal company that operated in four states – Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming – and this July marked the fourth anniversary of the company filing for bankruptcy. Many miners in all four states had no notice and were left without paychecks or jobs. Award-winning journalist Ken Ward Jr. is based in West Virginia and has followed the story of Black Jewel. He recently published a story for ProPublica about the company’s mishandling, specifically in the Appalachian region.

Time: 9 min

Date: 7/28/23 at 3 pm and 7/30/23 at noon.

**Topic:** The first anniversary of the controversial Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) recently passed. So far, a great majority of red states are taking advantage of the money from the act. And a recent analysis by the think tank RMI shows that Wyoming could get more than seven billion dollars from the climate-related provisions of the IRA if it took full advantage of it. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with Inside Climate News reporter Marianne Lavelle on her reporting of how the state could get that money and why so many red states are taking advantage of it.

Time: 10 min

Date: 9/1/23 at 3 pm and 9/2/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Wyoming's Governor Mark Gordon is the leader of a group of western governors for the next year, and his goal is to explore 'decarbonization' as a way to address climate change. Gordon recently held a workshop in Gillette, which Wyoming Public Radio's energy reporter Caitlin Tan attended. She spoke with WPR's news director Kamila Kudelska.

Time: 11 min

Date: 9/29/23 at 3 pm and 9/31/23 at noon.

## **ISSUE: Wildlife**

**Topic:** For the first time, Wyoming is outlining specifically how it will manage its 22 state-operated elk feedgrounds going forward. The department released a draft plan, and it is a shift from how the state has historically done things.

Time: 10 min

Date: 7/21/23 at 3 pm and 7/23/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Wyoming is talking about the greater sage-grouse again: a polarizing topic that has been in conversation amongst western states over the last couple of decades. The federal government wants to expand the bird's protected range, and the state is skeptical about that plan. So, state officials and locals recently put their heads together about it to craft their own plan.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/28/23 at 3 pm and 7/30/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Bears are making their way into Jackson Hole to forage for berries as they get ready to hibernate. Grand Teton National Park is advising people to be cautious on roadways. Cole Stewart with Bear Wise Jackson Hole has been helping lead the charge to keep people informed about the region's new rules around keeping properties bear safe. This includes having bear resistant trash cans in many parts of Teton County. He recently spoke with Jackson Hole Community Radio's Hanna Merzbach about keeping locals and bears safe.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/8/23 at 3 pm and 9/10/23 at noon.

### **ISSUE: Science**

**Topic:** The University of Wyoming State Vet Lab has a biocontainment facility, and within that there's a necropsy facility. It was used recently for the first time to diagnose animal infections that have the potential to transfer to humans.

Time: 10 min

Date: 7/21/23 at 3 pm and 7/23/23 at noon.

### **ISSUE: Politics**

**Topic:** Early last month, the Laramie City Council voted on whether or not they would create a Police Advisory Board. This vote was the culmination of years of debate — debate which saw thousands of Laramie residents taking to the streets, signing petitions, and giving hours of public comment at city council meetings. However, despite all that arguing, the councilors arrived at a unanimous decision. The Police Advisory Board was approved.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/11/23 at 3 pm and 8/13/23 at noon

### **ISSUE: Solutions**

**Topic:** How does an underfunded and overworked rural police department help a community feel more supported? Riverton's new police chief is hoping a Community Service Officer program could help.

Time: 6 min

Date: 7/28/23 at 3 pm and 7/30/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Wyoming Animal shelters have their resources strained from a decrease in space for animals and decreased donations. Community engagement is becoming increasingly needed during this challenging time.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/18/23 at 3 pm and 8/20/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Japanese-American Sam Mihara was only nine years old when the United States government used fear and security to justify his family's imprisonment at the Heart Mountain Internment Camp in

northwestern Wyoming for the entirety of World War II. Since then, Mihara has worked to make sure that history won't repeat itself. Next week, he'll be in Laramie for his speaking series "Memories of Imprisonment." Wyoming Public Radio's Jordan Uplinger spoke with Mihara.

Time: 9 min

Date: 9/8/23 at 3 pm and 9/10/23 at noon.

### **ISSUE: Community issues**

**Topic:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) has decided to build a Temple in Cody. A Temple is not just a church. To LDS members, also known as Mormons, it has a special purpose and a special construction. That construction has drawn criticism from neighbors because its large lighted tower will be more than 100 feet tall from the ground. That's about the height of a ten story building in a rural neighborhood. The town of Cody doesn't have a ten story building.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/7/23 at 3 pm and 7/9/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Librarians nationwide have been feeling the heat from their communities. It's been no different in Wyoming. For the past two years, the Campbell County Public Library has been the center of community outrage. The main issue is relocating or removing books on sex education and LGBTQ+ issues for children and teens. That debate recently escalated.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/11/23 at 3 pm and 8/13/23 at noon

### **ISSUE: LGBTQ+ issues**

**Topic:** The term "misgendering" means referring to someone by pronouns they don't identify with. It's a common social faux pas when it's done accidentally and considered rude when done on purpose. But what about when it's done in legal filings? One Cornell law professor, Chan Tov McNamara, believes it should actually be considered professional misconduct on the part of the lawyer doing it. Wyoming Public Radio's Jeff Victor spoke with McNamara about their argument that misgendering ought to be considered misconduct.

Time: 6 min

Date: 9/1/23 at 3 pm and 9/3/23 at noon.

## **ISSUE: Native American issues**

**Topic:** In Wyoming, July 3rd is known to some as “Treaty Day” – a day that commemorates the signing of the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868. The Eastern Shoshone and Shoshone-Bannock tribes signed this treaty with the U.S. government 155 years ago, creating what is now the Wind River Reservation. This year, the Fort Bridger Historic Site made some changes to its annual Treaty Day celebration to emphasize the on-going presence of tribal communities in the area.

Time: 6 min

Date: 7/7/23 at 3 pm and 7/9/23 at noon

**Topic:** Nicole Wagon is a Northern Arapaho advocate, raising awareness about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Crisis, or MMIP. Wagon lost two of her daughters to the crisis in the span of a year. Wyoming Public Radio’s Hannah Habermann spoke with Wagon about the state’s MMIP task force, the motorcycle group Medicine Wheel Riders, and what keeps Wagon going as she continues to fight for justice.

Time: 7 min

Date: 8/11/23 at 3 pm and 8/13/23 at noon

**Topic:** On a bright Wednesday morning, forty or so sleepy-eyed high school students from Wyoming Indian High School sit at folding plastic tables. They’ve got journals and pens in front of them, but they’re not in your typical classroom. Instead, they’re in an open field of sagebrush that’s currently home to the Eastern Shoshone bison herd.

Date: 6 min

Time: 9/29/23 at 3 pm and 9/31/23 at noon.

**Topic:** The Northern Cheyenne Medicinal Garden at the Sheridan Food Forest consists of about 105 different plants that the Northern Cheyenne tribe has used for spiritual, medicinal, or nutritional significance. A dedication ceremony on Aug. 31 at the Sheridan Food Forest drew around two dozen community members who wanted to learn more about the significance of these plants.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/8/23 at 3 pm and 9/10/23 at noon.

## **ISSUE: Health**

**Topic:** The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT Act) is a law enacted last August. It expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxic substances.

Time: 6 min

Date: 7/7/23 at 3 pm and 7/9/23 at noon.

### **ISSUE: Business and industry**

**Topic:** The Wyoming Sheep and Wool Festival was held earlier this month in Kemmerer. It was meant to celebrate the state's sheep and wool producers and help bring the industry to light with the public.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/7/23 at 3 pm and 7/9/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Last month, a new Wyoming State Forester was selected by Governor Mark Gordon to fill the vacancy left by longtime state forester Bill Crapser. Wyoming Public Radio's Hugh Cook spoke with Kelly Norris about the state of Wyoming's forests, her plans for the agency to focus on, and being the first woman to fill the position.

Time: 9 pm

Date: 8/18/23 at 3 pm and 8/20/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Long-haul trucking is a major part of American commerce and greenhouse gas emissions. A look at efforts to electrify long-haul trucking and the barriers these efforts face.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/18/23 at 3 pm and 8/20/23 at noon.

**Topic:** The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has been expanding broadband internet access across Wyoming. But is it possible in the vast untamed lands of this state to bring high speed connection to every rural resident? That's the major challenge sparking a conversation about internet access in the frontier.

Time: 6 min

Date: 9/29/23 at 3 pm and 9/31/23 at noon.

### **ISSUE: Education**

**Topic:** Each summer, the Dubois Museum puts on six educational outings to different local landmarks and scenic stops. The adventure treks help visitors and locals alike learn about the ecology, geology, past and present of the area.

Time: 6 min



Date: 8/18/23 at 3 pm and 8/20/23 at noon.

**Topic:** The Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Department of Education, and office of Gov. Mark Gordon announced a conservation education initiative aimed at students in upper elementary grades and above in an effort to educate them about the outdoors and introduce them to careers in wildlife. Wyoming Public Radio's Hugh Cook spoke with the Game and Fish's Nish Goicolea about the innovative new initiative.

Time: 8 min

Date: 9/22/23 at 3 pm and 9/24/23 at noon.

### **ISSUE: Sports**

**Topic:** At this year's International Climbing Festival in Lander, a unique clinic was offered by pro climber and six-time paraclimbing National Champion and World Champion Justin Salas. Salas' clinic "The Fundamentals of Visualization" concentrated on just that – mentally visualizing climbing routes rather than depending on sight.

Time: 6 min

Date: 7/21/23 at 3 pm and 7/23/23 at noon.

**Topic:** The University of Wyoming (UW) Cowboys football team kicks off their season Sept. 2 at their home stadium against Texas Tech. The Pokes have plenty of optimism heading into this year despite the fact that the landscape of college sports is changing extremely fast. Wyoming Public Radio's Will Walkey talked with UW sports reporter Ryan Thorburn to learn more.

Time: 9 min

Date: 9/1/23 at 3 pm and 9/3/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Earlier this month, former University of Wyoming (UW) athletic director and head football coach Paul Roach died at the age of 95. Roach had a big impact on the UW athletic community starting in the mid-80s. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with a couple of people who remembered Roach.

Time: 8 min

Date: 9/8/23 at 3 pm and 9/10/23 at noon.

### **ISSUE: Art**

**Topic:** Back before cameras existed, artists would paint in front of their subjects, whether that be a person or a landscape. Since photography was invented, many artists instead rely on photos of their

subjects. But Tony Foster is a watercolor painter who backpacks into the wilderness to paint the landscapes he finds. His most recent exhibit at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West focuses on his adventures along the Green River.

Time: 6 min

Date: Date: 7/21/23 at 3 pm and 7/23/23 at noon.

**Topic:** ARTCORE is a Casper-based arts organization that has provided opportunities for artists in a variety of disciplines to showcase their skills. It recently began its season, which runs through next year.

Time: 7 min

Date: 7/29/23 at 3 pm and 7/30/23 at noon.

**Topic:** Wyoming Public Radio's Grady Kirkpatrick recently moderated the Laramie County Library Foundation's forum of Wyoming Authors. We present you with an inside look of the event.

Time: 11 min

Date: 8/11/23 at 3 pm and 8/13/23 at noon

## **ISSUE: Music**

**Topic:** On July 2, the Air Force Academy Band played in the Cheyenne Amphitheater. The free show was called "Sounds of Liberty." Wyoming Public Radio's Eric Vigil sat down with one of the band's members to talk about what the band is all about.

Time: 10 min

Date: 7/7/23 at 3 pm and 7/9/23 at noon

**Topic:** The Ucross Foundation is preparing for its 40th Anniversary Gala. Wyoming Public Radio's Grady Kirkpatrick spoke with a recent artist-in-residence about her experience and the event.

Time: 15 min

Date: 9/22/23 at 3 pm and 9/24/23 at noon.

## **ISSUE: Immigration**

**Topic:** Immigration lawyers are hard to come by in Wyoming and that can make an already long and complex process even more daunting. However, the University of Wyoming's Civil Legal Services Clinic is looking to fix that issue with a new initiative. Ana Rodriguez is a second-year law student and the mind behind the event. Rodriguez noticed that many of the people coming to the event for help had

questions about immigration, which is when she realized that there was a lack of immigration attorneys in the state.

Time: 6 min

Date: 8/18/23 at 3 pm and 8/20/23 at noon

**Topic:** They're acclimating to life in the Mountain West with their 'freedom baby' who made it possible for them to stay together.

Time: 7 min

Date: 9/18/23 at 3 pm and 9/20/23 at noon

**Topic:** A new nonprofit, the Wyoming Immigrant Advocacy Project, will offer assistance to the growing community in Teton County.

Time: 6 min

Date: 9/22/23 at 3 pm and 9/24/23 at noon.

## **ISSUE: Suicide issues**

**Topic:** This year, the University of Wyoming College of Law launched the Firearms Research Center. The center hopes to establish more voices in Second Amendment discussions and will act as a reliable, nonpartisan resource for firearms related information. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with co-founder and executive director of the center Ashley Hlebinsky on why the center is important to her personally.

Time: 10 min

Date: 9/29/23 at 3 pm and 9/31/23

**Topic:** September is suicide awareness month and Wyoming has the highest suicide rate per capita in the country. A new documentary that will be shown in Rock Springs, Casper, Gillette, Lander, and Jackson this month showcases the impacts, attitudes, challenges, and possible solutions that suicide has on the state. Wyoming Public Radio's Hugh Cook spoke with Brooke Schmill, who created "Turning Point: Ending Suicide in Wyoming."

Time: 7 min

Date: 9/1/23 at 3 pm and 9/3/23 at noon.